Top 10 Rude Q&A for Visual Studio .NET Beta 2
Microsoft Confidential

Q: When are you shipping? Is it late?
We are planning to release Visual Studio.NET in the 2nd half of this year. We've been consistent about our plans to release in 2001 for quite a while, and though we certainly would have liked to release sooner, we have provided very early beta access for anyone who would like to try the product, and are now offering a deployment license for Web applications built on Beta 2.

Q: How does Microsoft compete against J2EE?
A: J2EE, and admittedly, Windows DNA, were 2nd generation platforms. Microsoft .NET represents the 3rd generation, which means it a) uses public Internet standards to integrate with many platforms; b) was designed specifically for the Internet to literally make the Internet a programmable platform; and c) embraces the way developers work today, for example, by supporting over 20 different programming languages. J2EE offers none of these benefits.

Q: Are developers fleeing VB?
A: Developers are very excited about the promise and opportunity with .NET. Developers using VB, in particular, asked for a lot of changes over the years – Web programming, better Windows programming, and language enhancements chief among them – and now Microsoft is delivering. There is a small minority who think we went too far, but that is true with any bold new innovation. Most developers are willing to make an investment to gain the myriad of benefits .NET offers.

Q: Will anyone be providing a Java implementation for .NET?
A: Microsoft announced an implementation in January 2001, called JUMP. Java User Migration Path to Microsoft .NET (JUMP to .NET) combines technology and service offerings that enable programmers to preserve, enhance, and migrate Java language projects onto the Microsoft .NET platform. JUMP to .NET enables Microsoft Visual J++® customers and other programmers who use the Java language to take advantage of existing skills and code investments while fully exploiting the Microsoft platform today and into the future. JUMP to .NET provides the easiest transition for Java developers into the world of XML-based Web Services, and dramatically improves the interoperability of the Java language with software written in a variety of other programming languages. More information can be found on http://msdn.microsoft.com/visualj.

Q: But your JUMP support is JDK 1.1.4 only – the real action is on J2, isn't it?
A: Our research shows that most Java development is 1.1.4 or earlier, and certainly all of the Visual J++ code is 1.1.4. Our responsibility with JUMP is first and foremost to VJ customers, and we think there's a lot of value for anyone moving from Java to .NET. At the end of the day, it's a platform choice, and we're very confident that .NET will win.

Q: Will there be a cross-platform version of the runtime?
A: We expect that there will be but we aren't prepared to discuss it at this time. Cross-platform has proven to be a nice marketing slogan, but the real excitement is in the interoperability that .NET offers by way of XML Web services.

Q: Isn't C# just a knockoff of Java?
A: No. C# is a simple modern object oriented language that is an evolution of C and C++. In developing C#, we have tried to address the needs of a certain class of developers who want simplicity and power in a managed environment. Additionally we have tried to rectify what we perceive as some shortcomings in other modern languages in the design of C#. For instance, we think that C# deals with problems like Versioning and Platform Integration in elegant and innovative ways. Any languages that build on the foundation of C and C++ and attempt to take all of these design points into account will exhibit similarities.

Q: It looks like there's no difference between C# and VB. Should I stop using VB and switch to C#?
A: Developers using VB today can anticipate a number of exciting new features in the next release. Features such as structured exception handling, inheritance, and multi-threading will address most users' concerns today. For developers that prefer a C-based language, Microsoft is offering developers the choice. C# offers developers the ability to program in a modern object oriented language. Developers should consider what language best suits the task at hand. Additionally, due to the design of the underlying .NET Framework, developers can mix and match components developed in many different languages.

Q: What happened to (Win)DNA?
A: WinDNA, like J2EE, is a second-generation application architecture. The new .NET Platform is a 3rd generation architecture that enables developers to work in the XML Web services world. In this respect WinDNA has been replaced by .NET.

Q: How do I secure my XML Web services?
A: Since XML Web services look and act externally like Web pages (using HTTP requests and responding with text which happens to be well formed XML), they are protected in much the same way that Web sites are protected: through standard Web server authentication mechanisms and through the use of HTTPS and SSL to protect data on the network.

Q: How does .NET Framework security compare with Java?
A: First, .NET Framework security was built-in from the start, not added later. Code access security provides a more powerful and granular infrastructure for security enforcement, with permissions that can be extended by customer code to protect their resources. Evidence-based security policy allows administrators to precisely control what code is assigned what permission. User identity classes unify various forms of authentication into a single model, and customers can add to the model with their own.